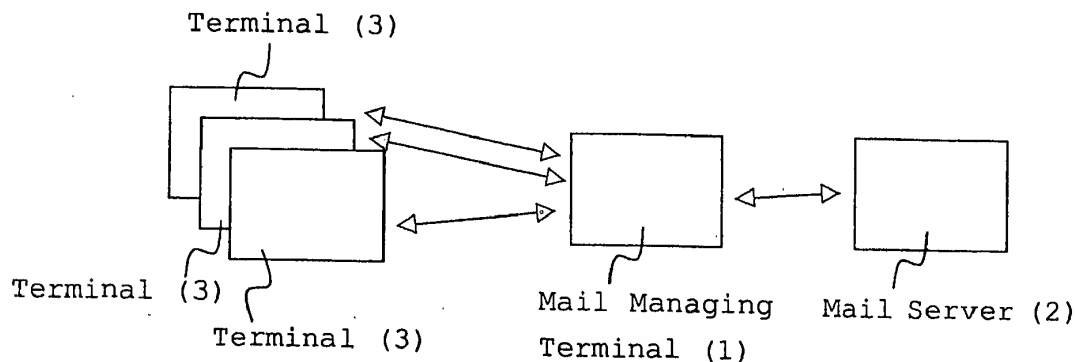


In response to the foregoing Action, claims 10-11, 18-19, 25-26, and 32-33 are canceled, and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 17, 24, and 31 are amended.

Thus, claims 1-9, 12-17, 20-24, 27-31, and 34-38 remain pending. Of the remaining, pending claims, claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 are independent claims. Remaining, pending dependent claims 3-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1; claims 12-16 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 9; claims 20-23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 17; 27-30 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 24; and claims 34-38 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 31.

Present Invention

As recited in each of independent claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application, the present invention is an electronic mail managing apparatus (1) connectable at least to a mail server (2) and a plurality of terminal devices (3). More particularly, the present invention is arranged as shown:



The present invention is organized with the above-mentioned relationship between three elements, namely, the mail managing terminal, the mail server and the terminals.

Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,891)

As shown in Fig. 1 of Wang, the Wang apparatus relates to a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function. According to the disclosure of Wang, the telephone answering machine of the Wang apparatus merely receives the e-mail.

Murakami (U.S. patent No. 5,590,178)

Murakami relates to portable telephone accessing an electronic mail center and receiving electronic mail. The Examiner's assertions that the Murakami apparatus has "memory status means for storing each status of the electronic mail stored in the mail memory so as to correspond to each of a plurality of terminal devices" as in the present invention are respectfully traversed. A "memory status means", if existing in the Murakami apparatus, would be provided in the mail server of the Murakami apparatus. Also, Murakami is related to connecting telephone and e-mail systems by the mediation of users, in which one terminal being used by one user.

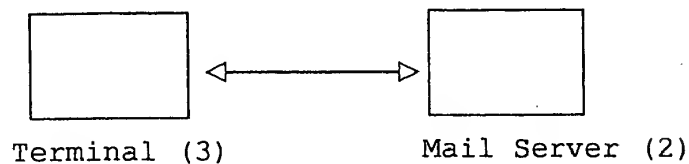
Brunson (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,614)

Brunson discloses message retrieval through alternative access. More particularly, Brunson discloses a multi-media messaging system providing multi-media message capability to non-subscriber message recipients lacking multi-media reception capability.

Combination of Wang and Murakami

The apparatus which would result from the combination of the Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus is a telephone answering apparatus provided between a telephone line and

a portable telephone and providing an e-mail receiving function. The arrangement of each of the Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus is shown:



The Wang apparatus and the Murakami apparatus are both organized with relationships between the above-mentioned, two elements.

Combination of Wang and Brunson

The apparatus which would result from a combination of the Wang apparatus and the Brunson apparatus would be a telephone answering machine provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function in a multi-media messaging environment, in which the telephone answering machine merely receives the e-mail.

Combination of Wang, Brunson, and Murakami

The apparatus which would result from a combination of the Wang apparatus, the Brunson apparatus, and the Murakami apparatus would be a telephone answering machine

provided between a telephone and a phone line and having an e-mail receiving function in a multi-media messaging environment, in which the telephone answering machine merely receives the e-mail, and which includes a portable telephone.

Recitations of the claims of the present application

In one aspect of the present invention, the communication between a telephone and each of terminal devices occurs. First, each of the e-mails in the telephone of the present invention is monitored and controlled as to whether it has been transferred to each of the e-mail terminals. Secondly, not each of the users, but each of the terminals is identified. Independent claims 1, 7-9, 17, 24, and 31 are each amended to clarify the features of the present invention.

More particularly, each of independent claims 1, 7-9, 17, 24, and 31 recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) “ wherein said status memory means stores whether or not the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices”.

Moreover, neither Wang nor Brunson, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the monitoring and controlling of mail and terminals as recited in independent claims 9, 17, 24, and 31 of the present application.

Advantageously, the present invention avoids failures such as downloading the same e-mail to a terminal more than twice, and deleting e-mails from the e-mail server by one terminal before those e-mails are downloaded by other terminals, since the telephone monitors and controls e-mails when one user uses a plurality of e-mail and terminals.

The above-mentioned dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 3 (dependent from claim 1) recites that the telephone further comprises “a process table for storing a process to be applied to the electronic mail the electronic mail is down-loaded to each of the terminal devices”.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment,
- please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By: 

Gene M. Garner, II
Registration No. 34,172

Suite 500
700 Eleventh St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500

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